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TITLE : WATER-SOLUBLE CHITOSAN SALT AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To produce a water-soluble chitosan salt, having excellent stability for a long period due to water solubility within a neutral region and useful in the field of foods, cosmetics, paper, etc., by neutralizing an acidic aqueous solution of chitosan with a carbonate.

CONSTITUTION: An acidic aqueous solution of chitosan (e.g. aqueous solution prepared by adding and dissolving formic acid, acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, etc., in chitosan) is neutralized with a carbonate (e.g. ammonium carbonate or calcium carbonate) to afford the aimed water-soluble chitosan salt at pH 6~8. The above-mentioned chitosan salt is preferably freeze-dried into powder, which is then employed as an aqueous solution in use. For example, the chitosan salt can be used as a thickening agent or bacteriostatic agent by adding to a batter of fries in the field of food, further as a thickening agent or humectant in packs as cosmetic and as a brightener for paper surface and paper strength enhancer.

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